

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| Applicant: | Tomohisa Sakurai | Examiner: | Unassigned |
| Serial No: | To be assigned | Art Unit: | Unassigned |
| Filed: | Herewith | Docket: | 17324 |
| For: | SURGICAL OPERATION APPARATUS AND CONTROL METHOD THEREOF | Dated: | December 22, 2003 |

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, it is requested that the following references, which are also listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, be made of record in the above-identified case.

1. U.S. Patent No. 5,217,003, dated June 8, 1993, issued to Wilk;
2. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2000-206544, published July 28, 2000 together with an English language abstract;
3. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 7-136173, published May 30, 1995 together with an English language abstract;

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL"

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Patent Application, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: December 22, 2003

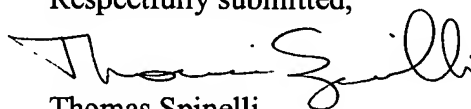

Thomas Spinelli

4. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2000-254141, published September 19, 2000 together with an English language abstract;
5. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2000-217826, published August 8, 2000 together with an English language abstract;
6. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 9-98979, published April 15, 1997 together with an English language abstract; and
7. European Patent Application No. EP 0 776 738 A2, dated June 4, 1997.

Applicants are submitting a copy of references 2-7. Reference 1 is not being submitted herewith, as copies of U.S. patents are no longer required per the waiver of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i) in effect as of June 30, 2003.

Inasmuch as this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in accordance with the schedule set out in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), no statement or fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas Spinelli
Registration No.: 39,533

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(516) 742-4343

TS:cm

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| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i> | Docket Number (Optional) 17324 | Application Number To be assigned |
| | Applicant(s) Tomohisa Sakurai | |
| | Filing Date Herewith | Group Art Unit Unassigned |

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| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS |
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| *EXAMINER INITIAL | REF | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
|----------------------|-----|-----------------|----------|------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|
| | | 5,217,003 | 6/8/1993 | Wilk | | | |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS |
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| REF | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | Translation | |
|-----|-----------------|-----------|---------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
| | | | | | | YES | NO |
| | 2000-206544 | 7/28/2000 | Japan | | | ✓ | |
| | 7-136173 | 5/30/1995 | Japan | | | ✓ | |
| | 2000-254141 | 9/19/2000 | Japan | | | ✓ | |
| | 2000-217826 | 8/8/2000 | Japan | | | ✓ | |
| | 9-98979 | 4/15/1997 | Japan | | | ✓ | |

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| OTHER DOCUMENTS <i>(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</i> |
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| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i> | Docket Number (Optional) 17324 | Application Number To be assigned |
| | Applicant(s) Tomohisa Sakurai | |
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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| | | | | | | | YES | NO |
| | | EP 0 776 738 A2 | 6/4/1997 | EPO | | | | |
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OTHER DOCUMENTS *(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)*

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